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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 220712

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: EG, IS, PINR

SUBJECT: INTSUM 639 - AUGUST 30, 1978

LONDON FOR GLASPIE
PARIS FOR NICHOLAS MURPHY
OTHER ADDRESSEES FOR CHIEFS OF MISSION

1. JORDAN. AMMAN EMBASSY WAS TOLD BY A WESTERN CORRESPONDENT THAT JORDANIAN COURT CHIEF SHARAF GAVE AN OFF-THE-RECORD INTERVIEW ON AUGUST 28. SHARAF REPORTEDLY SAID THAT KING HUSSEIN, IN RECENT LETTERS TO PRESIDENTS CARTER AND SADAT, WISHED TO CONVEY THE MESSAGE THAT JORDAN CANNOT ENTER PEACE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE BASIS OF A "LOOSELY WORDED" DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES, BECAUSE ISRAEL IN THE PAST HAS SHOWN THAT IT WILL "DUCK OUT" OF SUCH GENERAL AGREEMENTS THE VERY NEXT DAY. SHARAF ALSO SAID THAT ASWAN-TYPE FORMULAS ON PALESTINIAN SELF-DETERMINATION ARE NOT SUFFICIENT, BUT THAT "TANGIBLE PROOF" OF ISRAELI INTENTIONS TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON AGREEMENTS IS NECESSARY. (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. ISRAEL. EMBASSY TEL AVIV REPORTS THAT RANAAN WEITZ, ISRAEL'S CHIEF SETTLEMENTS PLANNER, HAS STIRRED UP A HORNET'S NEST BY SETTING FORTH A FIVE-YEAR SETTLEMENT
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PROGRAM WHICH ENVISAGES THE POSSIBLE CREATION OF AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE, EVEN THOUGH IT INCLUDES SETTLEMENT "BUFFERS" IN THE JORDAN VALLEY AND RAFAH APPROACHES. THE EMBASSY OBSERVES THAT IN CHALLENGING THE ONLY ARTICLE OF FAITH ON WHICH THERE IS VIRTUAL UNANIMITY IN ISRAEL, WEITZ MAY HAVE FATALLY UNDERMINED HIS EFFECTIVENESS AND INADVERTENTLY ADDED FURTHER IMPETUS TO THE GUSH EMUNIM DRIVE TO SETTLE JUDEA AND SAMARIA.

3. THE EMBASSY ALSO REPORTS THAT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SETTLEMENTS TO ISRAEL LIES PRINCIPALLY IN THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO ISRAEL'S CASE FOR RETAINING PERMANENT CONTROL OVER PORTIONS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, RATHER THAN IN ANY IMMEDIATE MILITARY ROLE. FOR A DECADE, ISRAEL LIMITED ITS SETTLEMENTS MAINLY TO AREAS OF MAJOR STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE -- PRIMARILY THE JORDAN VALLEY, GOLAN, AND THE RAFAH APPROACHES. UNDER THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT, WHOSE TERRITORIAL ASPIRATIONS ARE BASED ON NATIONALISTIC AS WELL AS SECURITY GROUNDS, NEW SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY HAS BEEN BASED IN THE SAMARIAN HIGHLANDS, WHICH PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTS HAD EXPLICITLY AVOIDED. HOWEVER, MOST ISRAELIS STILL VIEW SETTLEMENTS PRIMARILY IN SECURITY TERMS AND HAVE NOT

DEVELOPED MANY EMOTIONAL TIES TO THE NEW HIGHLAND WEST
BANK SETTLEMENTS. (CONFIDENTIAL) CHRISTOPHER

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